

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace any prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. canceled

11. (previously presented) A method of manufacturing a disk drive comprising a base casting, a disk, and a head stack assembly (HSA), the HSA comprising at least one actuator arm, a suspension connected to a distal end of the actuator arm, a head connected to a distal end of the suspension, and a shipping comb attached to the actuator arm that limits relative vertical motion of the suspension, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) inserting the HSA into the base casting;
  - (b) actuating the shipping comb to bend the suspension in a vertical direction to facilitate the insertion of a merge tool comprising a finger for engaging the suspension;
  - (c) inserting the merge tool such that the finger of the merge tool moves into position without scraping against the suspension;
  - (d) detaching the shipping comb from the actuator arm wherein the suspension retracts vertically and engages the finger of the merge tool; and
  - (e) actuating the merge tool to merge the HSA with the disk.
12. (original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the shipping comb is actuated by rotating the shipping comb to bend the suspension in a vertical direction to facilitate the insertion of the merge tool.

13. (original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein:
  - (a) the shipping comb comprises a beveled surface; and
  - (b) the suspension slides over the beveled surface when the shipping comb is actuated.
14. (original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the shipping comb is detached from the actuator arm by rotating the shipping comb.
15. (original )The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the suspension comprises a coating for reducing friction between the shipping comb and the suspension.